

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 433

By Hill

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jonesborough,
Tennessee upon being designated as a Tree
City, U.S.A.

WHEREAS, when the first Europeans set foot on this continent, the area that was to become Tennessee, along with most of the eastern portion of the continent, was covered with climax forests composed of magnificent stands of American chestnut, oak, tulip poplar, sycamores, and other hardwoods, as well as various conifers at higher elevations among the Appalachian chain; and

WHEREAS, early settlers cleared the land, and by the lessons of history, learned the value of a forest cover as flooding and erosion increased; the forest disappeared even faster as wood was required by early steam railroads and the effects of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in the early part of the 20th century, the appreciation of forests grew, and reforestation began to take place; the Tennessee Valley Authority general policies on flood control contributed to that new attitude; and

WHEREAS, the National Arbor Day Foundation has encouraged tree planting by selecting various communities as Tree City U.S.A. designees, if such communities have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Earth Day Observance; and

WHEREAS, recently Jonesborough, Tennessee was recognized as a Tree City U.S.A. during an Earth Day ceremony at which Mayor Tobie Bledsoe joined others in a tree-planting event; Jonesborough becomes one of 31 Tennessee Tree Cities that are recognized nationally for the care of their urban forests; and

WHEREAS, Jonesborough has elected to plant a lot of native species in its parks and open spaces to preserve the town's natural environment and to complement efforts to preserve its architectural and historical heritage; residents are encouraged to join in the effort on their own properties; and

WHEREAS, Homer G'Fellers, Director of the Johnson City Power Board, accepted a Tree Line U.S.A. award, one of only nine given to utilities in Tennessee for their contributions to urban forestry; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bledsoe attributed the hiring of Patrick McCammon as Jonesborough's urban forester as contributing to Jonesborough's winning the designation; Mr. McCammon has supported the development of a tree ordinance, a beauty spot program, a heritage tree program, a town arboretum program and has reviewed all landscape plans submitted by developers to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Jonesborough's designee as a Tree City, U.S.A. is worthy of our approbation and special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly offers the citizens of Jonesborough its heartiest congratulations upon being designated as a Tree City U.S.A. and profound thanks for that community's efforts to preserve this state's natural beauty, clean air and livability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.